

EA



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,357	10/01/2003	Sang-Kug Yi	P56912	3818

7590 09/22/2005
Robert E. Bushnell
Suite 300
1522 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-1202

EXAMINER

MARC, MCDIEUNEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3661

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,357

Applicant(s)

YI ET AL.

Examiner

McDieunel Marc

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/01/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) all is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'A' or '1'.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Kuno** (U.S. Pat. No. **5,802,494**).

As per claims 1, 10 and 16, Kuno teaches a system and an associated method including patient monitoring system having a system for controlling a home robot (see fig. 3, where robot 5 being taken for a home robot), comprising: a remote supercomputer responsive to a user's command for controlling said home robot (see fig. 5), said user and said home robot being in a premises different from a location of said supercomputer (see fig. 5); a home gateway for providing a path of communication between said home robot and said supercomputer via a network external to said premises (see fig. 4, particularly the box next to the robot); and said home robot being controlled to perform only in response to command result signals generated by said supercomputer, said command result signals being generated in response to said user's command (see figs. 3-5). With respect to claim 10, a system for controlling a home

robot, the system comprising the home robot (see fig. 3), a home gateway and a supercomputer for controlling said home robot (see fig. 4 as described above), said supercomputer comprising: a home gateway interface unit for receiving user's commands via said home gateway and over a communication network (see figs. 4 and 5); a control unit for extracting and interpreting one or more commands of the user and a status signal of the home robot from the user's commands received by the home gateway interface unit (see fig. 4, wherein the box next to robot 5 being considered as the required gateway), said control unit generating a command response signal in response to each interpreted command and a status response signal in response to the status signal (see fig. 4 as described above); a service module unit responsive to each said command response signal for generating corresponding command result signals and responsive to said status response signal for generating corresponding status result signals (see figs. 3-5), said command result signals and status result signals being transmitted to said home robot via said control unit and said home gateway interface unit over said network (see figs. 3-5); and a robot information managing unit for managing a general history of the home robot such as registration information, operation information, accident information and residential position for operations of the control unit (see col. 3, line 40 – to – col. 4, line 4, wherein managing history being considered as taken picture of sick patient). With respect to claim 16, a method for operating a home robot using a supercomputer (see fig. 5 as described above), the method comprising steps of: receiving a voice command of a user at the home robot (see col. 23, lines 49-63); converting the voice command into a digital voice command (see col. 23, lines 49-63 covers the above mentioned limitation); transmitting the digital voice command to the supercomputer through a home gateway (see col. 23, lines 49-63 as described above); interpreting the digital voice command transmitted from the home robot through the home gateway at the supercomputer by voice recognition (see col. 23, lines 49-63 as described above); generating a response message to the voice command (see col. 23, lines 49-63 as described above); synthesizing the response message into a synthesized voice message transmitting the synthesized voice message

Art Unit: 3661

to the home robot through the home gateway (see col. 23, lines 49-63 as described above); and converting the synthesized voice message to produce an analog voice signal to generate an audible voice through a speaker (see col. 23, lines 49-63 and fig. 3).

As per claims 2-9, 11-15 and 17, Kuno teaches a system and an associated that contain a microphone for receiving an external voice command signal from the user and converting the voice command signal into an electric command signal; an analog-to-digital converter for converting the electric command signal to a digital command signal; a wireless communication unit for converting the digital command signal into a wireless command signal and transmitting the wireless command signal to the supercomputer through said home gateway and said network, and for receiving a wireless command result signal from the supercomputer through the network and the home gateway, said wireless communication unit converting the wireless command result signal into a digital command result signal; a digital-to-analog converter for converting a digital voice signal to an analog voice signal when said digital voice signal is included with said digital command result signal; a speaker for producing an audio voice signal in response to the analog voice signal from said digital-to-analog converter; a control unit receiving said digital command result signal from the wireless command unit and analyzing said digital command result signal to control one or more actions of said home robot, and based on said analysis, said control unit outputting one or more of said digital voice signal, motion control signals and an image signal; a driving unit for moving body components of said home robot in response to one or more of said motion control signals from the control unit, each motion control signal being determined by the analysis performed by said control unit on said digital command result signal; and a display unit for displaying an image in response to said image signal (see fig. 3-5, cols. 3-32, particularly, col. 23, lines 49-63 as described above). With respect to claim 3, said control unit transmitting the digital command signal to said wireless communication unit (see figs. 3-4). With

respect to claim 4, said wireless communication unit generating and receiving wireless local area network (WLAN) signals (see figs. 4-5). With respect to claim 5, said home gateway converting said wireless command signal to a form appropriate to said network for communication over said network as a transmitted command signal (see figs. 4-5 as describe above). With respect to claim 6, the path of communication between said home robot and said home gateway being a wireless local area network (WLAN) (see figs. 4-5, wherein pictorially the system is wireless). With respect to claim 7, said supercomputer comprising: a home gateway interface unit for receiving said user's command via said home gateway and said network; a control unit for extracting and interpreting one or more commands of the user and a status signal of the home robot from the user's commands received by the home gateway interface unit, said control unit generating a command response signal in response to each interpreted command and a status response signal in response to the status signal; and a service module unit responsive to each said command response signal for generating corresponding command result signals and responsive to said status response signal for generating corresponding status result signals, said command result signals and status result signals being transmitted to said home robot via said control unit and said home gateway interface unit over said network (see figs. 3-5 as described above). With respect to claim 8, said supercomputer further comprising: an authentication unit for authenticating the home robot, when the home robot transmits information through the home gateway or requests a service; a charging unit for charging a fee when the home robot uses the supercomputer (this know features in the business method art do not have any patentable weight, such limitation should be canceled. If not restriction will be made in the next communication); and a robot information managing unit for managing a general history of the home robot, the general history comprising one or more of registration information, operation information, accident information and residential position. With respect to claim 9, The system as set forth in claim 1, said supercomputer comprising an authentication unit for authenticating the home robot, when the home robot transmits information through the home gateway or requests a

Art Unit: 3661

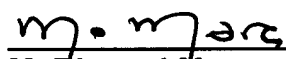
service to enable said supercomputer and said home robot to communicate with each other (this know features do not have patentable weight). With respect to claim 11, said supercomputer further comprising: an authentication unit for authenticating the home robot, when the home robot transmits information through the home gateway or requests a service, communication between the home robot and the supercomputer being enabled upon authentication of the home robot; and a charging unit for charging a fee when the home robot uses the supercomputer (this know features in the business method art do not have any patentable weight, such limitation should be canceled. If not restriction will be made in the next communication as described above). With respect to claim 12, said service module comprising: a common service module unit for providing a common service to all users; and an individual service module unit for providing individual services to each user (this know features do not have patentable weight). With respect to claim 13, said service module comprising: a voice recognizing module for recognizing a voice command; a voice synthesizing module for synthesizing and reproducing voice; and a home robot driving managing module for generating the motion control signals for driving the home robot (see col. 23, lines 49-63 as described above). With respect to claim 14, wherein the registration information comprises at least one of an ID (identification) of the home robot, a product number and product specifications of the home robot and personal information of an owner of the home robot (this known features do not have patentable weight). With respect to claim 15, the communication network being a wireless local area network (WLAN) (see figs. 3-5 as described above). With respect to claim 17, said step of transmitting the digital voice command to the supercomputer through a home gateway comprising steps of: converting the digital voice command to a wireless local area network (WLAN) signal; transmitting the wireless local area network (WLAN) signal to said home gateway from said home robot; and converting the wireless local area network (WLAN) signal to a form suitable for transmission over a communication network connected between said supercomputer and said home gateway (see figs. 3-5 and cols. 3-32 as stated above).

Art Unit: 3661

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to McDieunel Marc whose telephone number is (571) 272-6964. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-5:00 Mon-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



McDieunel Marc

Sunday, September 18, 2005

MM/